

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of ~~Claims 1, 2, or 3~~ claim 79.

5. (original) A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 4.

6. (original) The host cell of Claim 5 that is a eukaryotic cell.

7. (original) The host cell of Claim 5 that is a prokaryotic cell.

8. (original) A process of producing an IL-17- like polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 5 under suitable conditions to express the polypeptide, and optionally isolating the polypeptide from the culture.

Claim 9 (canceled)

10. (original) The process of Claim 8, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises promoter DNA other than the promoter DNA for the native IL-17-like polypeptide operatively linked to the DNA encoding the IL-17-like polypeptide.

Claim 11 (canceled)

12. (withdrawn) A process for determining whether a compound inhibits IL-17- like polypeptide activity or production comprising exposing a host cell according to Claim 5, 6 or 7 to the compound and measuring IL-17- like polypeptide activity or production in said host cell.

Claims 13-56 (canceled)

57. (currently amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of ~~Claims 1, 2 or 3~~ claim 79 and a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent.

58. (original) The composition of Claim 57, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is contained in a viral vector.

59. (currently amended) A viral vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of ~~Claims 1, 2, or 3~~ claim 79.

Claims 60-65 (canceled)

66. (withdrawn) A method of modulating levels of a polypeptide in an animal comprising administering to the animal the nucleic acid molecule of ~~Claims 1, 2, or 3~~ claim 79.

Claims 67-78 (canceled)

79. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 207 to 641 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (b) a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 159 to 641 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (c) a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides that encode a polypeptide comprising amino acids 17-161 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (d) a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides that encode a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-161 of SEQ ID NO: 2
- (e) a polynucleotide comprising nucleotides that encode a polypeptide fragment of amino acids 17-161 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the polypeptide fragment has the capacity of increasing eosinophils;
- (f) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of any of (a)-(e), wherein the conditions for hybridization and washing are 0.015M sodium chloride, 0.0015 sodium citrate at 65-68°C or 0.015 sodium chloride, 0.0015 sodium citrate, and 50% formamide at 42°C, and wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide having the capacity of increasing eosinophils;

(g) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 17-161 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the polypeptide has the capacity of increasing eosinophils; and

(h) a nucleotide sequence complementary to any (a)-(e).